

CODHHE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 18, 2012
6:30 PM – Delaware School for the Deaf
Newark, Delaware

PRESENT: Loretta Sarro, Chair/ DODHH; Josh Weinstein, Vice Chair/D.A.D.; Kyle McEvoy, Consumer; Peg Stewart, Treasurer, DSD; Kyle Hodges, Staff.

INTERPRETERS

Theresa Muschiatti & Pamela D'Occhio

CALL TO ORDER

Loretta called the meeting to order at 6:47 PM. Everyone introduced themselves.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

- U/D Policy on ASL
- DODHH Website

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

The November 16, 2011 minutes were approved as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Peg provided copies of the Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2011, with an ending balance of \$9,748.97. Peg stated that she had previous Treasurer's Reports from other months available if anyone wanted to review. The Treasurer's Report was approved as submitted.

BUSINESS

2012 Kids Summer Camp Update

Josh stated the applications for summer camp had been sent to various lists. The specific camps were also notified. He did receive a response from Isola Bella Camp. Josh will forward this email to Kyle. Kyle commented that he had heard from a representative from Camp Merrick. Kyle stated that he has not received any applications at this point. Kyle stated that he had sent the application package to Rich, Della, Julie Johnson (Hands & Voices) and Wendy Strauss (GACEC). Kyle will follow-up with Della and Wendy. Josh commented that it would be good to have a count on the number of applications received by mid-February. He also suggested sending out a reminder to groups. Depending on the number, we may not be able to look at all of the applications at one meeting (in March). Kyle will check on the status.

CapTel

Kyle reported that DETRS (staffed by Jim Cole) met in December. Kyle was contacted by Senator Peterson's staff requesting information on CapTel. Kyle provided them with numbers received from Loretta's office. This had been discussed at the December DETRS meeting. Kyle added that CODHHE has been monitoring the situation, but have not taken a position on the issue. Kyle stated that he does not think this Council needs to make a formal statement until legislation is introduced. Loretta stated that there is support for CapTel, but a decision has not been made.

Membership

Loretta spoke about filling the available slots on the Council. She had spoken with someone who had been with the Delaware Black Deaf Advocates and found out that this group had folded, but were going to restructure and reactivate. Loretta will follow-up on this and let everyone know. Loretta also spoke about the Hearing Loss Association-Delaware Chapter being represented and added that if Julie is unable to attend, another representative could attend. Loretta asked if anyone had suggestions. Josh explained that D.A.D had become inactive, but will check on the by-laws for the next steps. Kyle asked for clarification on the establishment of D.A.D. This group was formed as a chapter from the national group.

Kyle McEvoy suggested having an alumni association of DSD and a representative of that group could be on the Council. Kyle McEvoy will check into this. Kyle asked how this Council can attract more people to participate and become members. Kyle McEvoy suggested using Facebook. Peg commented that Wilmington Club for the Deaf sends out emails regarding their events. Kyle will contact Wilmington Club for the Deaf, Hearing Loss Association-DE Chapter and Hands & Voices by email to see if there is interest in this Council. Kyle will check into creating a CODHHE Facebook page, which can be shared with different groups in the deaf community. He will also check into Twitter. Loretta stated that if anyone had information about organizations that may be interested in participating in this Council to send an email to Kyle. Kyle McEvoy will add the CODHHE meeting schedule to his Facebook page.

CODHHE Meeting Timeframe Change

The current timeframe was discussed. Kyle commented that he had polled the group and the results were:

1. Keep as is (good for some).
2. Wednesday – 4 pm (good for some).
3. 3rd Tuesday - 4 pm after the Behavioral Health Committee meeting (and move BHC to DSD).

The next two meetings will be left as is (3rd Wednesday – 6:30 pm, every other month). Kyle will send another email with the three options listed above. Kyle suggested starting the agreed upon new time in September. Kyle will contact Christy regarding a change in location for BHC, but will wait a little while to send an email since the change will not take place until September.

The November 21st meeting date will be changed to the last week in November (date, time and location to be determined).

Letter to DPHBHS

Kyle referred to a handout, which was a letter from the BHC Chair (Christy Hennessey) to Susan Cyczk (DSCYF) in support of a student attending the National Deaf Academy. Kyle added that Susan responded and he let her know that Della would be the best contact for this situation. Loretta spoke about her experience in working with DSCYF and being supportive of a child's needs being met. Josh spoke of his experience in Pennsylvania and that budget issues also need to be looked at. Peg spoke of HIPPA requirements and the importance of confidentiality. The name will be eliminated from the letter (handout) and the corresponding email (handout). Kyle stated that Susan offered to meet with Della. Christy will also be informed about the confidentiality issue in regard to the letter sent.

U/D – ASL

Kyle spoke about a bill that passed several years ago regarding ASL being accepted in high schools as a foreign language. He stated, at that time, the University of Delaware did not accept ASL in their admission requirements. Representative Quinn Johnson solicited a meeting with UD representatives. Della, Deb Trapani (DSD), Wendy Strauss (GACEC), Pat Maichle (DDC) and Brian Hartman (CLASSI/DLP) attended. Kyle read the Resolution that the U/D Senate Faculty passed in Spring 2010 and the U/D now accepts ASL to fulfill the high school foreign language requirements for admission to the University.

Peg is concerned about the qualification of people teaching ASL as there is not an ASL teacher certification requirement in Delaware. Kyle suggested bringing this issue up as a future agenda item: qualifications of ASL teachers in high schools. Kyle will find out how many high schools offer ASL. Peg stated that there is a foreign language teacher certification, but not for ASL. Josh suggested including the U/D in this process. Kyle commented that the UDs accepting ASL to fulfill the high school foreign language requirements for admission to the University is a positive step.

DODHH Website

Kyle spoke about the State website and noted that on the list of State agencies, the DODHH is not listed and can only be reached through the DVR main website. Kyle suggested that this Office could be listed under the "D's" since many people do not know DODHH is under DVR. Kyle added that CODHHE and SCPD are listed separately. Kyle and Loretta will follow-up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Loretta stated there will be a Workshop on Infant Hearing Loss on March 21st. She stated that there will also be an NAD Conference in the first week of July to be held in Louisville, Kentucky. The Hearing Loss Association is having a conference in Providence, Rhode Island in June. There is also an upcoming National Black Deaf Advocates Conference.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 21 at 6:30 pm at the new Delaware School for the Deaf (Room 332).

Respectively submitted,

Jo Singles
Administrative Specialist

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